

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 INR-07 INRE-00
IO-13 NEA-10 NSCE-00 EUR-12 CCO-00 /070 W
-----072636 050734Z /14/14-
O 050601Z JAN 78 ZFF-6

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN PARIS
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SECTO 13097

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y MRN (SECTO 13097 VICE SECTO 13091)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), XW IV SO
SUBJECT: HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: SECTO 13088

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE IVORY
COAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER DATED
DECEMBER 29, 1977:

BEGIN TEXT:

MR. PRESIDENT:

AS YOU KNOW, THE TRUST PLACED IN ME BY A NUMBER

OF AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE, AWARE OF THE IMMENSE
DANGER POSED TO THEIR CONTINENT BY SOVIET INTRIGUES,
HAS LED ME TO TRY TO PUT TO THE SERVICES OF PEACE
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THE FRIENDSHIP WITH WHICH CERTAIN GREAT POWERS WHICH
HAVE MEANS TO THWART THESE PLANS HAVE HONORED ME.

THUS, I HAD GOTTEN SOMALIA TO COOL ITS
AMBITIONS ON THE TERRITORY OF AFARSIAND ISSAS IN
ORDER TO FACILITATE DJIBOUTI'S IMPLEMENTING ITS
INDEPENDENCE. THUS, PREOCCUPIED TO THE HIGHEST

DEGREE BY THE SITUATION IN THE "HORN OF AFRICA," I
HAVE SOUGHT TO USE THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH I

HAVE ESTABLISHED WITH GENERAL SIAD BARRE TO ACQUAINT
HIM WITH MY CONCERN THAT HE NOT OBTAIN AID FROM THE
SOVIET UNION AND THUS RISK BEING PLACED IRREVERSIBLY
IN THE ANTI-WESTERN CAMP. I PARTICULARLY DIRECTED
HIS ATTENTION TO A MESSAGE DATED OCTOBER 28, 1977
ON THE MISGIVINGS CAUSED TO MODERATE COUNTRIES BY
SOMALIAN CLAIMS IN REGARD TO KENYA. I LET HIM KNOW
THAT FROM MY POINT OF VIEW SOMALIA HAD NO CHANCE OF
BEING SUPPORTED ON THE QUESTION OF THE OGADEN AS LONG
AS IT MAINTAINED TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN REGARD TO
KENYA, A MODERATE COUNTRY THAT PLACED ITSELF
UNEQUIVOCALLY IN THE WESTERN CAMP.

GENERAL SIAD BARRE HAS JUST GIVEN HIS
RESPONSE WHICH APPEARS TO ME SO IMPORTANT THAT I
BELIEVE I MUST ATTACH IT TO THIS LETTER IN ITS
ENTIRETY. BASED ON OUR FRIENDSHIP AND CONSCIOUS OF
THE MAJOR ROLE THAT THE UNITED STATES, THE WORLD'S
GREATEST POWER, MUST PLAY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD
WHERE EVERYTHING MUST STILL BE RESOLVED, I BELIEVE
I MUST CALL YOUR ATTENTION IN THE MOST URGENT MANNER
TO THE NEED OF YOU AND YOUR ALLIES TO TAKE ACTION IN
ORDER THAT KENYA CEASES TO PLAY ETHIOPIA'S GAME OR
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RATHER THE SOVIET GAME, OUT OF FEAR OF AN ULTIMATE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 INR-07 INRE-00
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O 050601Z JAN 78 ZFF-6
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 SECTO 13097

INTERVENTION BY SOMALIA AGAINST IT.

THE CONCLUSION OF A NON-AGGRESSION PACT AS
SUGGESTED BY GENERAL SIAD BARRE WHICH WOULD BE
GUARANTEED BY THE GREAT WESTERN POWERS WOULD CONTRIBUTE
IN A LARGE WAY TO CHECK SOVIET POLICY AND I BELIEVE
THAT IT WILL BE DANGEROUS TO REJECT THE MANIFEST PROOF
OF GOOD WILL THAT HE HAS JUST SHOWN.

THE HEROIC STRUGGLE THAT SOMALIA IS WAGING
AGAINST A SOVIET SUPPORTED ETHIOPIA GOES BEYOND
SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN DIFFERENCES OVER THE OGADEN AND
BECOMES PART OF A MUCH GREATER STRUGGLE OF CERTAIN
RESPONSIBLE PARTIES IN ORDER TO LIMIT, IN TRUTH TO END,
THE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. AN INFLUENCE, NEED I
EMPHASIZE, WHICH WOULD BRING INJURY TO THE INTERESTS
OF AFRICA AND THE WEST.

I HOPE VERY STRONGLY THAT ONE MORE TIME YOUR
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COUNTRY WILL MAKE ITSELF THE CHAMPION OF THOSE WHO PUT
ALL THEIR EFFORTS AND ALL THEIR VIGILANCE TO THE
TO THE SERVICE OF PEACEFUL EQUALITY BETWEEN NATIONS.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCES
OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

(SIGNED) FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY

2. ORIGINAL WILL BE HAND CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY
SECRETARIAT STAFF.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: SECTO, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
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Review Markings:
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